

that the actual total expenditure in the fertilizer sector in the Eighth Plan period would be more or less equal to the Eighth Plan outlays.

Production of Groundnut

2573. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the States producing groundnut and the annual production of groundnut in these States during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the production of groundnut has declined during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of steps taken to assist the groundnut growers for increasing the production thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The production of Kharif groundnut has been estimated at 62.7 lakh tonnes during 1996-97, which is higher in comparison to the production achieved (56.36 lakh tonnes) during Kharif 1995-96.

(d) To increase the production of groundnut, the assistance provided to the groundnut growers through the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP). The assistance is given on the production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, sprinkler sets, gypsum and pyrites, improved farm implements and rhizobium culture. In addition, the Frontline and General Demonstrations are also organised on the farmers' fields to disseminate the production technology.

STATEMENT

The year-wise and State-wise production of Groundnut during the last three years

(000 Tonnes)

S No	State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	2545.7	1772.6	2426.0
2	Bihar	4.9	4.7	4.0
3	Gujarat	676.6	2380.1	1027.0
4	Haryana	1.7	1.8	2.0
5	Himachal Pradesh	0.4	0.4	-
6	Jammu & Kashmir	0.2	0.2	-
7	Karnataka	1198.9	953.5	889.0
8	Kerala	9.5	9.1	13.0
9	Madhya Pradesh	275.0	229.2	291.0
10	Maharashtra	769.2	628.7	679.0

1	2	3	4	5
11	Orissa	114.0	96.4	95.0
12	Punjab	9.0	8.0	8.0
13	Rajasthan	209.3	196.2	164.0
14	Tamil Nadu	1865.6	1844.8	1912.0
15	Tripura	2.2	2.2	-
16	Uttar Pradesh	119.4	100.3	107.0
17	West Bengal	21.1	21.1	29.0
	Others	6.2	5.8	7.0
	Total	7828.9	8255.1	7653.0

Criteria for Defining Freedom Fighter

2574. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for defining a "freedom fighter" for making the person eligible for getting various benefits and privileges under the "Freedom Fighters Pension";

(b) the facilities, privileges and concessions available to the freedom fighters and the total financial outlay therefor;

(c) the total number of "freedom fighters" availing these benefits;

(d) whether there are any outstanding claims of pension still pending clearance with the Ministry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 a person who had undergone a minimum period of six months imprisonment, internment/externment, abscondence (under-ground) against an executive action of the Government, in connection with his participation in the Freedom Struggle is entitled for consideration of grant of pension. Other types of suffering such as loss of Government job, confiscation/attachment of property, 10 strokes of whipping or canning, permanent incapacitation due to lathi charge have also been recognised for the purpose of grant of pension.

(b) Details of various facilities that have been extended to the freedom fighter pensions by the Central Government are indicated in the statement enclosed. During the current financial year a budgetary provision of Rs. 190 crores has been kept to meet the expenditure on account of payment of pension and other benefits.

(c) Ever since the inception of the Scheme, the freedom fighters' pension has so far been granted in 1.62 lakhs cases. No separate statistics are being maintained about the number of freedom fighters who are actually availing the pension and other benefits at present.

(d) and (e). As on 30-11-1996, 14 fresh applications, that are received recently were pending with the Government for disposal.

STATEMENT

Details of various facilities that are provided by the Government to the Central Freedom Fighter Pensioners

1. Facility of free railway passes (1st Class) for freedom fighters and to their widows/attendants, for life.
2. Free medical facilities in all Central Government hospitals and also in the hospitals run by the Public Sector Undertakings under the control of Bureau of Public Enterprises. C.G.H.S. facilities have also been extended to freedom fighters and their dependents.
3. Facility of General Pool residential accommodation to freedom fighters of All India Standing for the purpose of medical treatment in Delhi if they do not own any house/flat in their names or in the name of any of their family members/dependents in Delhi/New Delhi.
4. Accommodation in the Freedom Fighters Home set up at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi for such of the freedom fighters who have none to look after them.
5. Facility of telephone connection, subject to feasibility, without installation charges and payment of only half of the rentals.

The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have also extended the benefits of pension and certain other facilities which differ from State to State.

Levy Sugar Price

2575. SHRI G. M. KUNTURKAR
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are considering to increase the levy sugar price on the demand from Indian Sugar Mills Association;

(b) if so, the proposed levy price; and

(c) the impact thereof on the interest of farmers as well as market policy of the sugar industry?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :
(a) and (b) The Indian Sugar Mills Association, in their submissions of 20.11.1996, have petitioned the

Government to increase the issue price of levy sugar to Rs. 11.30 per kg.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Sale of Wheat and Rice

2576. SHRI MANHARAN LAL PANDEY :
SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the details of quantity and rate of wheat and rice provided in the open market by the Food Corporation of India during the last one year till date, State-wise.

(b) the per quintal selling price of wheat and rice provided in the open market.

(c) whether these foodgrains were sold by FCI at the price lower than the market price; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) and (b) Statements I, II and III indicating the quantity and rates of wheat and rice sold by FCI in the open market during the last one year respectively are attached.

(c) and (d) FCI sells wheat and rice at a price above Central Issue Price and below Economic Cost of FCI in order to have a sobering influence on the market prices of foodgrains without jeopardising the Public Distribution System.

STATEMENT-I

The quantity of wheat and rice sold by FCI in the open market during December, 1995 to November, 1996

S No Name of the State		Quantity sold (Provisional)	
		Wheat	Rice
1	2	3	4
1.	Punjab	216.41	43.73
2.	Haryana	258.29	25.43
3.	Uttar Pradesh	111.65	29.04
4.	Delhi	54.28	3.49
5.	Rajasthan	140.02	5.43
6.	Himachal Pradesh	20.91	-
7.	J and K	46.42	-
8.	West Bengal	73.13	8.24
9.	Bihar	118.60	0.43
10.	Orissa	96.35	-
11.	Maharashtra	127.40	31.20
12.	Gujarat	136.77	17.33